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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Letter dated 4 June 2010 from the representatives of Indonesia and Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 29 and 30 March 2010, in Jakarta, the Governments of Indonesia and Slovakia co-chaired the International Workshop on the Role of the United Nations in Multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Towards an ASEAN Perspective. In this regard, we have the honour to submit to you the outcome of the workshop (see annex).

We request you kindly to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 11 and 33, and of the Security Council.

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Annex to the letter dated 4 June 2010 from the representatives of Indonesia and Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

International Workshop on the Role of the United Nations in Multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Towards an ASEAN Perspective

Co-hosted by Indonesia and Slovakia
29 and 30 March 2010, Jakarta

Co-Chairs' statement

1. The International Workshop on the Role of the United Nations in Multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Towards an ASEAN Perspective was held on 29 and 30 March 2010, in Jakarta. The workshop was a joint initiative of Indonesia and Slovakia, with the support of the Government of Norway, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Jakarta, and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). The workshop gathered approximately 100 participants, representing 26 countries, including the 10 member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and representatives of the United Nations, as well as non-governmental organizations and national think tanks. The workshop was co-chaired by Dr. R. M. Marty Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and Dr. Miroslav Lajčák, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN, also addressed the workshop, underlining that ASEAN now has a blueprint to work with the United Nations in the form of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC).

2. The workshop is the third in a series of regional workshops held to foster discussion on regional perspectives on peacekeeping and peacebuilding issues and how these can feed into United Nations approaches and policies. The first one was held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 7 and 8 November 2007, and the second one was held in Buenos Aires on 28 and 29 September 2009. The objectives of the Jakarta workshop were to: (a) take stock of the main challenges facing the United Nations in multidimensional peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding; (b) review the relevant experience of ASEAN member States in supporting peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and build on their contributions to United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts; and (c) identify recommendations for enhancing an ASEAN-United Nations partnership in multidimensional peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The workshop focused on key issues such as identifying practical steps for moving forward the ASEAN blueprint on the development of a political-security community; building rapidly deployable civilian capacity; and, supporting security sector reform. In order to ensure that discussions would feed into concrete steps for practical measures to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and ASEAN member States, several United Nations entities were actively consulted during the preparation of the workshop.

3. The workshop, which was based on a series of plenary sessions and breakout groups, recognized that partnerships are essential to effective peacekeeping and peacebuilding, as no single actor has the capacity to meet the broad range of needs

in these priority areas. The workshop concluded that ASEAN member States should enhance their partnership with the United Nations in order to support more complementary approaches to multidimensional peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. This co-Chairs' statement summarizes the main discussions and sets out an agenda for moving this partnership forward.

The role of the United Nations in multidimensional peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding

4. The workshop recognized that multidimensional peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding have greatly evolved from their inception and that the United Nations has undertaken a range of initiatives to successfully adapt to these changes. The "Brahimi" report; the "In larger freedom" report; the Secretary-General's report entitled "Securing peace and development: the role of the United Nations in supporting security sector reform"; the latest "New Horizon" policy document; and the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict are key examples to this effect. It was acknowledged, moreover, that a critical aspect of this evolution has been the recognition of the nexus between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. This is reflected in the complementarity between the "New Horizon" document and the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding.

5. The workshop acknowledged that there are still several challenges the United Nations needs to address in order to bridge the gaps towards fulfilling the objectives outlined in these documents. One of the main priorities from the United Nations perspective is addressing the challenge of establishing rapidly deployable civilian capacities. This raises a series of questions that the ongoing review of international civilian capacities and the review of the Peacebuilding Commission will examine, including: "How can we bring countries to work together to complement gaps and, in particular, increase the engagement of the global South?" Enhancing partnerships with regional networks and organizations was recognized as being essential to meet this challenge because they form the building blocks of the capacity and approach of the United Nations itself. The legitimacy of the United Nations approach is dependent on to the extent to which it is informed by the reality and experiences on the ground.

The role of ASEAN in multidimensional peacekeeping and peacebuilding

6. It was recognized that, to date, discussions on ASEAN-United Nations cooperation have tended to focus on how ASEAN can tap into United Nations resources. While it was acknowledged that ASEAN can still gain significantly from United Nations expertise, the premise of this workshop was to also underline the vital importance of ASEAN member States in supporting the effective peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts of the United Nations. For example, ASEAN member States have contributed significant numbers of uniformed and civilian personnel over the years (a total of 3,959 personnel are currently deployed). ASEAN member States also play a significant role in supporting policy dialogue within diverse United Nations forums. Due to the special role of some of these member States within various other caucuses in the United Nations, coupled with their credibility as troop- and police-contributing countries, they contribute positively to building consensus on sensitive issues discussed in United Nations policy arenas. Finally, ASEAN, and its member States, are well placed to promote norm-setting and

political development, which is essential in sensitive areas of peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

7. It was recognized that while ASEAN and its member States can help support the United Nations, the regional organization needs to first understand its own strengths and weaknesses. This also involves determining, through consensus, what level of political will there is to building on this process on the one hand as a regional organization and on the other hand as interested individual member States. APSC was recognized as being the ideal vehicle for moving this agenda forward, given its commitment to issues such as conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict peacebuilding.

8. It was noted that while ASEAN works on building the political will and consensus to engage in these issues as a regional organization, individual ASEAN member States can work together to build the ground for enhanced cooperation. Member States can tap into other areas of joint work currently under development to achieve tangible results in this area. For example, ASEAN Defence Ministers have shown significant commitment to coordination in crisis management, including emergency planning in disaster relief. ASEAN has also developed expertise in promoting human security — which concerns various aspects of peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Therefore, working within the framework of human security may provide additional entry points for enhancing regional and national ownership of related efforts.

ASEAN and the United Nations: towards a strengthened partnership in multidimensional peacekeeping and peacebuilding

9. The high level of engagement in the workshop was recognized as an indication of the enhanced opportunities for dialogue between ASEAN member States and the United Nations. On the one hand, the new reform agenda and initiatives within the United Nations offer the space for renewed discussions on supporting multidimensional peacekeeping and peacebuilding. On the other hand, ASEAN's blueprint for the political and security community offers an important entry point and recognizes that ASEAN "shall complement other comprehensive approaches" in peacebuilding. Similarly, it was recalled that at the retreat of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers of 14 January 2010, the importance of enhancing ASEAN cooperation in peacekeeping was recognized, as well as the possibility of raising ASEAN's profile in this area. The time is therefore ripe to move this partnership forward.

10. Possible activities include strengthening the consultation and coordination in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly and its Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), including delivering ASEAN statements on the issue of peacekeeping. Participants also look forward to engaging in the development of recommendations as part of the ongoing civilian capacity review. The upcoming regional consultations in Asia later this spring offer a platform to discuss the recommendation for improving United Nations delivery in peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict, to discuss regional solutions and to identify partnership opportunities promoting interoperability with the United Nations.

11. The workshop examined several key priority areas of United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding in an effort to build dialogue on these issues. In the area of security sector reform, the need for an enhanced understanding of the political landscape and sensitivities at hand was recognized, underlining the need to

rely on local expertise. It was acknowledged that relying on regional networks of like-minded States is essential in understanding local culture and enabling use of local knowledge to support security sector reform. Similarly, in the area of support to political processes, it was recognized that solutions need to be locally owned. It was also highlighted that support to political processes and security sector reform are areas where ASEAN member States could have a lot to offer through sharing their own national experiences and developing their own capacities to support such processes, building on their experiences in confidence-building and honest brokering. These were also identified as areas where the United Nations could facilitate training for interested member States based on ASEAN needs. In the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and socio-economic revitalization, short-term perspectives limited in scale and scope, couple with lack of long-term political commitment and effective coordination mechanisms, were seen as key gaps which could benefit from enhanced ASEAN-United Nations dialogue. Finally, in the area of rule of law, it was noted that civilian experts were particularly lacking, and it was suggested that ASEAN member States consider the creation of some form of standing capacity to address this gap. It was noted that in some of these key areas, such as support to security sector reform and political processes, the move in the direction of APSC could serve as a basis for further ASEAN involvement. However, cooperation in these areas needs to go step by step on the basis of the needs of ASEAN member States and the available capacities.

12. The workshop was considered an opportunity to strengthen dialogue between ASEAN member States and the United Nations on how to enhance cooperation in the areas of multidimensional peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. The workshop expressed the desire for the meeting to be a contribution to ongoing ASEAN efforts within the framework of APSC. A number of follow-up activities were identified to sustain the momentum of the workshop: (a) the co-Chairs undertake to bring the results of this workshop to the attention of ASEAN and the United Nations, and to circulate it as an official United Nations document; (b) the co-Chairs agree to inform international and regional organizations of which they are members, as appropriate, on the outcomes and recommendations deriving from the workshop; and (c) the co-Chairs undertake to support the ongoing United Nations civilian capacity review and to further reflect upon which they can contribute to regional solutions within that framework.

Recommendations

13. The following are some of the key recommendations emerging from the workshop:

- At the policy level, in order to facilitate ASEAN's important role in policy dialogue on issues related to peacekeeping and peacebuilding, there is a need for closer collaboration between ASEAN member States' capitals, missions to the United Nations in New York and missions to ASEAN in Jakarta, to encourage more robust ASEAN perspectives on these issues.

- Focal points on peacekeeping and peacebuilding issues should be identified among ASEAN member States in order to enhance coherence and responsiveness. This could build on similar ASEAN mechanisms already existing in the areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

- In order to strengthen the capacity of ASEAN member States to contribute to multidimensional peacekeeping, there is a need for practical measures to enhance the networks of training centres that already exist in several member States. This may include exchange of visits among instructors of peacekeeping centres, the sharing of information on peacekeeping training curricula and the development of centres of excellence in specialized areas of peacekeeping within these centres. There is also a need to develop a snapshot of existing and future ASEAN peacekeeping centres to identify gaps and priorities in the development of ASEAN capacities and capabilities for peacekeeping operations.

- There is a need to support the work requested by the Secretary-General in his report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict to broaden and deepen the pool of civilian experts to support the immediate capacity development needs of countries emerging from conflict, giving particular attention to mobilizing capacity in the global South and among women. ASEAN's member States are encouraged to discuss regional solutions within the framework of the United Nations civilian capacity review.

- In the spirit of supporting cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations, ASEAN may consider inviting the United Nations to observe selected ASEAN discussions on key peacekeeping and peacebuilding issues in order to enhance the sum of shared knowledge and understanding of constraints and opportunities for cooperation.

- ASEAN's member States should encourage their Ministers of Defence to contribute to enhancing the ways in which they can effectively support efforts in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, as does the framework of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM). There would be significant value added were the ADMM to address issues of common concern in this area, given their existing efforts in attending multilaterally to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

- ASEAN's member States are encouraged to think about their own potential for contributing to these regional efforts and to the framework of APSC.